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ABSTRACT

This is the second report on the post high school plans of seniors in the top quarter in public high schools in Virginia in May 1970 who responded to a survey made by the Virginia State Department of education. Post high school plans were: (1) attendance at a 4-year college; (2) attendance at a 2-year college with plans to transfer to a 4-year college; (3) attendance at a 2-year college as a terminal program; and (4) no college plans. Tables 1, 2, and 3 present information on these plans by sex as they are related respectively to SAT Verbal scores, SAT Mathematics scores, and SAT total scores. Table 4 relates post-high school plans with percentile rank in the senior class. (AF)

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TOP-QUARTER SENIORS IN VIRGINIA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS
SPRING, 1970

PART II: SELECTED ACHIEVEMENT CHARACTERISTICS

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SELECTED ACHIEVEMENT CHARACTERISTICS OF TOP-QUARTER
SENIORS IN VIRGINIA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS
SPRING, 1970

This is a second report prepared by the Office of Institutional Analysis at the University of Virginia dealing with top-quarter seniors in Virginia Public High Schools. An earlier report dealt with post-high school plans of these top-quarter seniors when grouped by sex and by type of high school. In this second report post-high school plans are related to Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores and percentile rank groupings within the top-quarter range.

Here, as in the earlier report, data were taken from the Senior Survey of 1970--conducted by the Division of Research of the State Department of Education. Permission was given the Office of Institutional Analysis to use portions of the Senior Survey data in these analyses of top-quarter seniors.

In Tables 1, 2, and 3 the post-high school plans of the top-quarter seniors are related to SAT Verbal scores, SAT Mathematics scores and SAT Total (Verbal + Mathematics) scores. These scores are commonly designated as "College Board" scores and are widely used as one of the bases for determining college admissions. The following observations are derived from the data in Tables 1, 2, and 3.

1. There were 2,130 top-quarter seniors who made SAT Verbal scores in the 600-800 range. Of these, 48 per cent were boys and 52 per cent were girls. There were 2,866 top-quarter seniors who made SAT Mathematics scores in the 600-800 range. Of these, 64 per cent were boys and 36 per cent girls. In the total score range of 1200-1600 there were 2,225 top-quarter seniors; 58 per cent boys and 42 per cent girls.

At the lower end of the range of SAT scores there were 1,810 top-quarter seniors with Verbal scores lower than 400 (31 per cent boys and 69 per cent girls). There were 1,247 top-quarter seniors with SAT Mathematics scores lower than 400 (17 per cent boys and 83 per cent girls). In the low range of total SAT scores, below 800, there were 1,297 top-quarter seniors (23 per cent boys and 77 per cent girls).

2. Nearly all the high scoring top-quarter seniors intended to go to a 4-year college or university--98 per cent of the boys with Verbal scores in the 600-800 range and 96 per cent of the girls with Verbal scores in this range. The same was true of seniors making high SAT Mathematics scores in the 600-800 range. Ninety-six per cent of the boys and 94 per cent of the girls in this group intended to go to a 4-year college or university. Smaller per cents of the low scoring seniors intended to go to a 4-year college or university. Considering all top-quarter seniors with SAT Verbal scores lower than 400 there were 73 per cent intending to go to a 4-year college or university. Among the top-quarter seniors with SAT Mathematics scores lower than 400 there were 70 per cent intending to enter a 4-year college or university.

3. Only 40 top-quarter seniors with SAT Verbal scores of 600-800 had no plans to go to college. Thirty-one of these were girls and 9 were boys. Sixty-six of the top-quarter seniors with SAT Mathematics scores of 600-800 had no plans to go to college. Thirty-five of these were girls and thirty-one were boys. Many more of the low scoring top-quarter seniors had no plans to go to college. There

were 224 top-quarter seniors (37 boys, 187 girls) with SAT Verbal scores lower than 400 who did not intend to go to college. There were 191 top-quarter seniors (22 boys, 169 girls) with SAT Mathematics scores below 400 who did not intend to go to college.

Students in the top-quarter of their senior classes, of course, range in percentile rank from the 75th to the 99...th. In Table 4 this range is broken down into five intervals along the horizontal axis and the types of post-high school plans are arranged along the vertical axis. The data in Table 4 support the following observations.

1. For seniors planning to enter 4-year colleges or universities the number declines steadily as one moves from highest to lowest percentile ranks. The opposite is true for the seniors planning to enter 2-year colleges and for the seniors who do not plan to enter college. A similar finding was reported by Bryant[1] in his study of the seniors of 1956.

2. The 13,049 top-quarter seniors distribute themselves almost equally among the five intervals in percentile rank.

   Bryant[2] found that 80 per cent of the top-quarter seniors in 1956 who had a percentile rank in class of 96-99... intended to go to college. The comparable per cent for the seniors in 1970 was 92. Similar increases appeared between 1956 and 1970 in the other percentile rank intervals.

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[1]M. Howard Bryant, "Factors Affecting the Decision of Top-Quarter Virginia High School Graduates Not to Go to College" (Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Virginia, 1957), pp. 46-48.

[2]Ibid., p. 47.

> The opposite is true for the top-quarter seniors who did not plan to go to college. Bryant found that 20 per cent of the top-quarter seniors in 1956 who had a percentile rank in class of 96-99... did not intend to go to college. The comparable per cent for the seniors of 1970 was 8. Similar declines appeared between 1956 and 1970 in the other percentile rank intervals.

In a published summary[3] of the responses in the Senior Survey of 1970 it is reported that 20,305 of all seniors included in the survey intended to enter a 4-year college or university. It is significant that 47 per cent of this number ranked in the top-quarter of their senior classes. Likewise, there were 22,551 seniors of 1970 who did not plan to go to college. Only ten per cent of these ranked in the top-quarter of their senior classes.

3"Senior Survey, 1970," Public Education in Virginia 6:3, Fall, 1970 (Richmond: State Department of Education), pp. 7-12.

TABLE 1
SENIORS - VIRGINIA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL - SPRING, 1970

In Top-Quarter of Their Senior Classes
By: Sex, SAT Verbal Scores,
and Plans Beyond High School

Plans Beyond High School	SAT Verbal: Boys 800-600	Boys 599-400	Boys 399-below	Boys No scores	Girls 800-600	Girls 599-400	Girls 399-below	Girls No scores	Total 800-600	Total 599-400	Total 399-below	Total No scores
Attend 4-Year College	994	2,256	409	112	1,068	3,507	905	223	2,062	5,763	1,314	335
Attend 2-Year College and Transfer to 4-Year Colleges	10	126	86	75	12	181	76	108	22	307	162	183
Attend 2-Year College in Terminal Program	0	25	28	72	6	114	82	236	6	139	110	308
All Top-Quarter Seniors Planning to Enter College	1,004	2,407	523	259	1,086	3,802	1,063	567	2,090	6,209	1,586	826
No Plans to Enter College	9	76	37	237	31	321	187	1,440	40	397	224	1,677
All Top-Quarter Seniors	1,013	2,483	560	496	1,117	4,123	1,250	2,007	2,130	6,606	1,810	2,503

TABLE 2
SENIORS - VIRGINIA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS - SPRING, 1970

In Top-Quarter of Their Senior Classes
By: Sex, SAT Math Scores,
and Plans Beyond High School

	SAT Math											
	Boys				Girls				Total			
Plans Beyond High School	800-600	599-400	399-below	No scores	800-600	599-400	399-below	No scores	800-600	599-400	399-below	No scores
Attend 4-Year College	1,755	1,754	150	112	979	3,782	719	223	2,734	5,536	869	335
Attend 2-Year College and Transfer to 4-Year College	34	153	35	75	14	187	68	108	48	340	103	183
Attend 2-Year College in Terminal Program	9	34	10	72	9	119	74	236	18	153	84	308
All Top-Quarter Seniors Planning to Enter College	1,798	1,941	195	259	1,002	4,088	861	567	2,800	6,029	1,056	826
No Plans to Enter College	31	69	22	237	35	335	169	1,440	66	404	191	1,677
All Top-Quarter Seniors	1,829	2,010	217	496	1,037	4,423	1,030	2,007	2,866	6,433	1,247	2,503

TABLE 3
SENIORS - VIRGINIA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS - SPRING, 1970

In Top-Quarter of Their Senior Classes
By Sex, Total SAT Scores,
and Plans Beyond High School

Plans Beyond High School	Total SAT Scores: Boys 1600-1200	Boys 1199-800	Boys 799-below	Boys No scores	Girls 1600-1200	Girls 1199-800	Girls 799-below	Girls No scores	Total 1600-1200	Total 1199-800	Total 799-below	Total No scores
Attend 4-Year College	1,269	2,190	200	112	888	3,891	701	223	2,157	6,081	901	335
Attend 2-Year College and Transfer to 4-Year College	15	155	52	75	7	197	65	108	22	352	117	183
Attend 2-Year College in Terminal Program	2	36	15	72	4	128	70	236	6	164	85	308
All Top-Quarter Seniors Planning to Enter College	1,286	2,381	267	259	899	4,216	836	567	2,185	6,597	1,103	826
No Plans to Enter College	15	82	25	237	25	345	169	1,440	40	427	194	1,677
All Top-Quarter Seniors	1,301	2,463	292	496	924	4,561	1,005	2,007	2,225	7,024	1,297	2,503

Table 4
DISTRIBUTION OF VIRGINIA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
SPRING, 1970

By Post-High School Plans and
Percentile Rank in Class

	Percentile Rank in Senior Class					
Post-High School Plans	99-96	95-91	90-86	85-81	80-75	Total
Enroll in 4-Year College	2,182	2,048	1,378	1,705	1,661	9,474
Enroll in 2-Year College And Transfer to a 4-Year College	53	108	151	148	214	674
Enroll in 2-Year College Terminal Program	52	85	112	142	172	563
Total Planning to Attend College	2,287	2,241	2,141	1,995	2,047	10,711
Total Not Planning to Attend College	204	385	484	601	664	2,338
Total	2,491	2,626	2,625	2,596	2,648	13,049